Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 3, 21, and 28; and amend claims 1-2, 4-15, 18, 20, 22, 25, and 27. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented claims in a continuing or future application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer based system for automatically maintaining at least one deployment descriptor, comprising:

a parser capable of generating a representation of the at least one deployment descriptor;

a generator capable of creating the at least one deployment descriptor;

a validator capable of validating the at least one deployment descriptor;

a graphical user interface (GUI) capable of at least invoking the parser;

wherein the GUI can include a user-selectable resource hierarchy, settings pane, message area, and toolbar;

wherein the system is capable of automatically repairing a first deployment descriptor of the at least one deployment descriptors descriptor if the first deployment descriptor is defective; and

wherein the system is capable of automatically deploying an application associated with the at least one deployment descriptor.

2.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the validator is capable of

generating an error when it encounters a syntactic or semantic fault in the at least one deployment descriptor, and

using the GUI to display a selectable error message to a user; and

in response to a user's selection of the selectable error message, the system can navigate the GUI to the source of the error corresponding to the selectable error message.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the generator is capable of producing the at least one deployment descriptor from at least one source code file.

5.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 1, further comprising:

a builder component capable of automatically updating the at least one deployment descriptor to reflect one or more changes in at least one source code file.

6.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the representation can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

7.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 1 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computer based system for automatically maintaining at least one deployment descriptor, comprising:

a parser capable of generating a first representation of the at least one deployment descriptor;

a generator capable of creating a second representation of at least one deployment descriptor based on one or more source files;

a builder capable of comparing the first representation with the second representation;

wherein the builder is capable of updating the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if at least one source file of the first representation is modified out-of-date; [[and]]

wherein the system is capable of automatically repairing a first deployment descriptor of the at least one deployment descriptors descriptor if the first deployment descriptor is defective; and

generating new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

9.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

the generator is capable of producing the at least one deployment descriptor from at least one source code file.

10.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

a representation can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

11.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

12.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

information is modules are not deleted from the first representation.

13.   (Currently Amended) The computer based system of claim 8 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer based~~ system of claim 8 wherein:

a user can modify information in the second representation ~~via the IDE~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for updating at least one deployment descriptor, comprising:

creating a first representation of the at least one deployment descriptor;

creating a second representation of a second at least one deployment descriptor based on one or more source files;

comparing the first representation with the second representation; and

updating the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if at least one source file of the first representation is ~~modified out-of-date; and~~

generating new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein:

~~information is~~ modules are not deleted from the first representation.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein:

a user can modify information in the second representation ~~via the IDE~~.

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended)   A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

create a first representation of the at least one deployment descriptor;

create a second representation of a second at least one deployment descriptor based on one or more source files;

compare the first representation with the second representation;

update the first representation to create an updated first representation based on the second representation if at least one source file of the first representation is modified ~~out-of-date~~; and

generating new deployment descriptors from the updated first representation.

23.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can include information pertaining to at least one of: a Java™ archive (JAR), a Web Archive (WAR), an Enterprise Archive (EAR), and a Java™ Connector Architecture Component (RAR).

24.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

the at least one deployment descriptor can be expressed as an Extensible Markup Language document.

25.   (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

~~information is~~ modules are not deleted from the first representation.

26.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein:

information in the second representation that is not in the first representation is added to the first representation.

27.   (Currently Amended) The machine readable medium of claim 22 wherein: a user can modify information in the second representation ~~via the IDE~~.

28.   (Canceled)